

# Statewide Transfer System – HB 2382



**Presentation to House  
Higher Education Committee  
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# What is a statewide transfer system?

- Each higher education institution uses its own course numbering system
- A statewide transfer system would allow students to enter a course they have taken at any institution and determine its equivalent at any other institution – and determine how the course applies to a specific major (web-based)
- Also could be used to promote transfer and degree production for the state

# Background

- House Bill 2382 directed the HECB to convene a workgroup and submit a progress report detailing costs and options for a course equivalency system in Washington
- The HECB 2004 Strategic Master Plan includes a statewide course equivalency system as a policy initiative
- The HECB agency budget request includes \$1.6 million for 2005-07 for a statewide course equivalency system; Locke's proposed budget did not include funding

# Why is a statewide system important now?

- 41 percent of students earning a bachelor's degree have completed at least 40 credits at a community college (2003)
- Students attending more than one institution tend to take more total credits toward their degree
- Early planning and advising help students avoid taking credits that do not transfer

# Examples of systems in other states

- Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio
- Central websites with state funding
- Example: <http://www.asu.edu/provost/articulation/>

# Benefits of a statewide system

- Providing early planning information
- Allowing students to “shop” for the best use of their credits among different institutions
- Making students aware of all of their degree options
- Allowing students to seek advising any time
- Reducing the possibility of students’ taking state-funded credits that do not transfer
- Increasing the number of students who earn bachelor’s degrees

# Options for a Statewide System

- Automated course equivalency crosswalks
  - A student can use a menu or keywords to enter a course, and receive its equivalent at another institution
- Informal degree audit: how do courses apply to a major?
- Electronic transcript evaluation: so that students don't have to enter each course they have taken
- Electronic transcript exchange among institutions

# Options, continued

- Automated alerts for faculty discussions of course equivalencies (instead of manual review of catalogues)
- Interfaces to existing systems at the institutions
- A mechanism for collecting student feedback
  - To better understand transfer processes and evaluate the effectiveness of the system
- “Mapping” of degree opportunities in the state, transfer tips

# Costs for a statewide system

- Transfer from:
  - A two-year college to a four-year college (\$1.6 million)
  - Among multiple two-year colleges and to a four-year college (additional \$666K to \$934K)
  - Among multiple four-year colleges (additional \$576K)
- Including Independent Colleges of Washington (up to \$123K)

# Recommendation

- Fund the 2005-07 HECB agency budget at the amount requested for the system: \$1.6 million
- Phase project so that transfer from a single two-year to a single four-year institution is developed first; phase other types of transfer as costs allow
- Direct HECB to develop detailed specifications and select a vendor or contractor